FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
9-405	ORLEANS		EAS.102

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
North Eastham/Nauset

Address: 1750 Nauset Road

Historic Name: Thomas & Abigail Ellis House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1830-40

Source: censuses, deeds, vital records

Style/Form: Greek Revival/Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick, parged

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Outbuilding, ca. 2000

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
Bay window added south end, early 20th c.
Cottage annex added, ca. 2000
Some window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

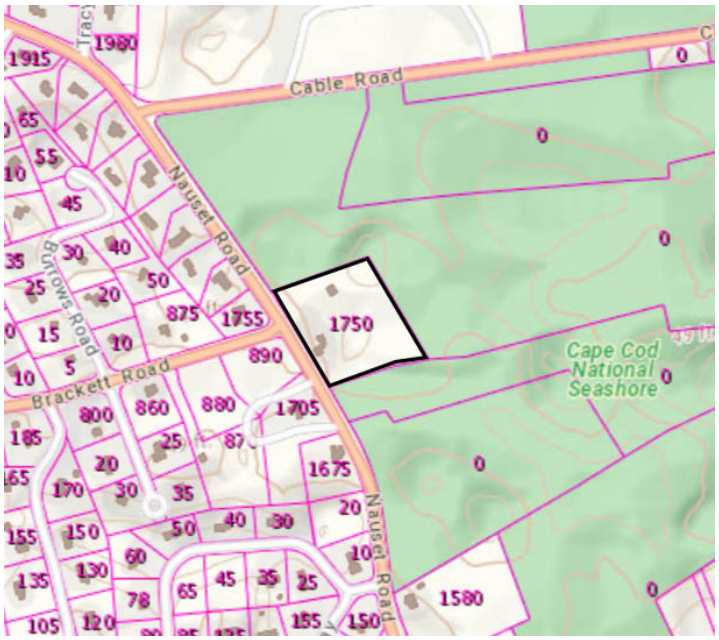
Acreage: 2.998

Setting: Located on a historic rural road backing up on open space of National Seashore and across the street from dense concentration of late-20th-century residential development.

Photograph

View from north.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Thomas & Abigail Ellis House, built ca. 1840 is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a three-quarters Cape Cod plan and an cottage annex built ca. 2000 replacing connected outbuildings. The four-bay front façade is framed by pronounced corner boards and a short frieze along the eaves. The off-center entrance is flanked by narrow pilasters surmounted by a frieze and cornice; windows carry the same cornice. A center chimney is of a small scale indicating the transition to stove heating. The two front rooms have two windows on the end walls; the front windows on the south side were replaced by a bay window in the early 20th century. Smaller rear rooms have single windows on the ends and the gables contain two windows centered in the attic story, but only the south end also has small windows for rooms under the eaves. A one-story annex with a front gable façade containing a center entrance flanked by a window on each side was added ca. 2000 in the place of connected outbuilding pictured on the 1995 MHC B Form. It has a small wing on the south side that is linked to the house by a short hyphen with a door. It apparently was constructed to create a second dwelling unit for the extended family owning the house.

The house is situated in a clearing at the front of an otherwise wooded property abutting open space owned by the National Seashore. It is screened from the street by a hedge with a driveway entering the property at the north end of the frontage. The driveway leads to an outbuilding of recent construction.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1854 William Freeman Knowles (1801-64) sold eleven acres and a house on it bordering Nathan A. Gill (2222 Nauset Road) and the brothers Michael and Benjamin H. A. Collins (1675 Nauset Road, EAS.101) to Thomas Ellis for $500.[1] The 1840 census, however, appears to establish that Ellis and his family were living on the property at that time; his household was enumerated between these two abutters. An examination of deeds to Knowles before 1854 does not establish, however, how he came by the parcel, and he and his family do not appear to have lived here; censuses appear to show them in the Fort Hill area to the south.

Nothing is known of the origins of Thomas Ellis (1808-87). When he married Abigail M. Ward in 1830, both were living in Eastham, but his death record does not list his parents. The 1850 census identifies Ellis as a mariner born in Orleans living with his wife and their two daughters Elizabeth (born 1833) and Jerusha (born 1836). Ellis is shown without real estate in this census, but in 1860 the census credits him with $400 in real property, and the 1858 Eastham map attaches his name to the 1750 Nauset Road house. In 1851 daughter Elizabeth married Canadian immigrant James H. Savage in Boston, and the 1860 census shows the couple in this neighborhood with daughter Jerusha. In 1867 Jerusha married Wellfleet mariner Hiram Snow, son of Nathan Snow of Wellfleet and Betsey Rich Lincoln of Eastham, and in 1870 the two couples are enumerated in consecutive households, the Snows with their three-year-old daughter Emma.

The 1880 Eastham map associates “T. Ellis” with the house, and the census again lists the Ellis and Hiram Snow households consecutively. In three deeds in the 1880s Hiram Snow bought 12.5 acres of land on the west side of Nauset Road roughly across from his in-laws, one parcel including the house of Hannah D. Brown, widow of Parker Brown, whose dwelling in 1880 appeared to be the town’s poorhouse.[2] Hiram Snow died in 1899, and the widowed Jerusha Ellis Snow spent the winter with her only daughter Emma Leach in Monson. She returned to Eastham in May 1900, and four months later daughter Emma died. In 1901 Jerusha Ellis Snow was living on Station Street in North Eastham, and Cape Cod newspapers note that she spent her winters in various Eastham and Orleans households. The 1905 Eastham map attaches “J. Snow” to the house. Jerusha Snow was listed alone in her household in 1910, and in 1920 she was boarding with Eastham widow Betsey M. Horton.

[1] William F. Knowles to Thomas Ellis, 10 May 1854, BCD 88:12.
[2] Hannah D. Brown to Hiram Snow, 28 December 1882, BCD 159:14; Hannah D. Brown to Hiram Snow, 9 March1886, BCD 165:583; Thomas Mayo to Hiram Snow, 17 February 1887, BCD 242:579. “Eastham,” Yarmouth Register, 10 April 1886, 1, notes the Hannah Brown “has sold her place” to Hiram Snow and moved to her daughter’s home in South Wellfleet.

In 1909 Jerusha Snow sold the 20-acre Nauset Road farmstead to Mary A. Carey of Mechanic Falls, Maine, and in 1911 Sarah B. Feltis of Bourne acquired the property.[3] Sarah B. Loring Feltis was the wife of Quincy blacksmith Charles A. Feltis, and the couple is listed in both Eastham and Bourne censuses in 1910. The *Sandwich Observer* noted in April 1911 that Charles Feltis "leaves soon to occupy his new home at Eastham, where he has recently bought a farm."[4] The 1920 Eastham census lists Feltis as a blacksmith living on Nauset Road with his wife. In the mid-1920s, though, the couple moved to the State Highway and sold the Nauset Road property to C. Maude Maxwell of Milton.[5]

Born in Geneva, Iowa, in 1872, Cora Maude Robinson Maxwell was the wife of New Brunswick immigrant grocer William H. Maxwell. They had three children—Ralph William, Dorothy Louise, and Carrie Holmes. The Maxwells used 1750 Nauset Road as a seasonal residence, and the property remained in the family until 2000. In 1935 Carrie Maxwell married Charles William Maskell, a Milton native who worked as an architect. Cora Maude Maxwell died in 1950, and the property passed to her daughters Carrie H. Maskell and Dorothy L. Chaddock. In 1972 Carrie Maskell added her married daughter Nancy L. Macris to the title, and in 1975 Chaddock released her share of the property to her niece Carolyn E. Maskell. Carolyn E. Maskell married by 2000, and in 2010 she released her life estate in the house and deeded it to Jeffery, Gregory, and Andrew K. Macris, the sons of her sister Nancy Macris. They were the owners of record in 2020.[6]

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds, Land Court Records, and Subdivision Maps.
Barnstable Patriot Archives. Sturgis Library Digital Newspaper Archive, https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/APA/Sturgis/#panel=home.
Dunham's 1929 Eastham (Mass.) Street Directory.
Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.
Lowe, Alice Albert. *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*. Falmouth, MA: Eastham Historical Society, 1968.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.
Paine, Josiah. "Early Settlers of Eastham: Containing Sketches of All Early Settlers of Eastham." *Library of Cape Cod History and Genealogy*, nos. 32 and 33. Yarmouthport, MA: C. W. Swift, 1914 and 1916.
Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 1901. South Framingham, MA: A. E. Foss Publishing Co., 1901.
Wilding, Don. *A Brief History of Eastham*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2017.

MAPS
Rogers, Josiah, Elijah Knowles, and Simeon Kingman. A Map of Eastham. 1795.
Hales, John G. *Plan of Eastham and Orleans*. 1831.
Walling, Henry F. *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Massachusetts Based upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State*. New York: D. R. Smith and Co.,1858.
Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray. Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.
Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker and Co., 1880.
Atlas of Massachusetts from Topographical Surveys Made in Co-operation by the United States Geological Survey and the Commissioners of the Commonwealth 1884-1888. Boston: Commissioners of the Commonwealth, 1890.
Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts . . . from Official Plans and Actual Surveys. Boston: Walker Lithograph and Publishing Co., 1905, 1910.

[3] Jerusha S. Snow to Mary A. Carey, Mechanic Falls ME, 16 June 1909, BCD 298:435; Mary A. Carey to Catherine M. Black, Lawrence, 15 January 1910, BCD 300:101; Catherine M. Black, Foxborough, to Sarah B. Feltis, Bourne, 4 April 1911, BCD 310:216.
[4] "Brief Locals," Sandwich Observer, 18 April 1911. 2.
[5] Sarah B. Feltis to C. Maude Maxwell, Milton, 15 October 1925, BCD 426:262.
[6] Carrie H. Maskell, Silver Springs MD, to Caroline E. Maskell and Nancy L. Macris, Beltsville MD, 1 September 1972, BCD 1716:193; Carrie H. Maskell, Silver Springs MD, to Caroline E. Maskell and Nancy L. Macris, Beltsville MD, 1 September 1972, BCD 1716:193; Carolyn E. Brockway fka Carolyn E. Maskell, Gulf Shores AL, to Nancy L. Macris, Hampstead NC; Jeffrey R. Macris, Oak Harbor WA; Gregory P. Macris, Arlington VA; and Andrew K. Macris, Nashville TN, 23 October 2000, BCD 13475:324; John A. Macris, executor will Nancy L. Macris, Hampstead NC, to Jeffrey R. Macris, Annapolis MD; Gregory P. Macris, Falls Church VA; and Andrew K. Macris, Jacksonville FL, 8 October 2011, BCD 25835:243; Carolyn E. Brockway, Foley AL, to Jeffrey R. Macris, Annapolis MD; Gregory P. Macris, Falls Church VA; and Andrew K. Macris, Jacksonville FL, 5 October 2010, BCD 25835:246.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from SW.